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STAR WARS™

THE OFFICIAL STARSHIPS & VEHICLES COLLECTION

62

NABOO SERAPH-CLASS FLASH SPEEDER

Royal Naboo Security Forces' patrol craft

N-1 pilot Gavyn Sykes

Battle for Naboo

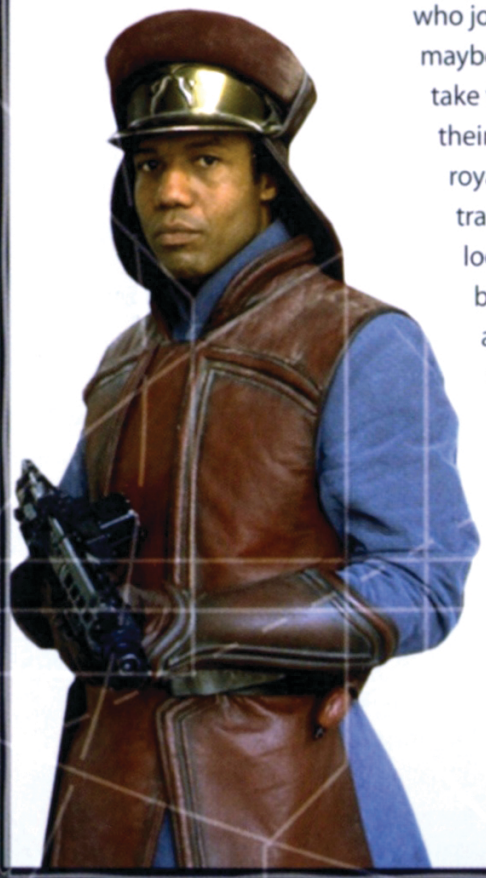
DeAGOSTINI

LUCAS BOOKS

GAVYN SYKES

ONE OF NABOO'S FINEST

Before it was led by Captain Panaka, the Naboo Royal Security Force had a variable reputation. However, Gavyn Sykes represented the very best that the volunteer RSF could offer. His contribution to the liberation of Naboo from the Trade Federation occupation was considerable, and he continued to serve long after.



Gavyn Sykes was never just one of those who joined the RSF for the uniform and maybe the chance to push folk around, take the occasional bribe, or to make their family proud as part of some royal ceremony. Sykes had flown transports around Naboo, in the local system and, very occasionally, beyond. He'd seen what smugglers and gun runners could do if left unchecked. As a result, Sykes joined the RSF to help keep his world safe.

Picked For Promotion

Volunteers like Gavyn Sykes were quickly recognised and rewarded once the RSF was commanded by Captain Panaka. Sykes was assigned to the Theed Palace security force, where he quickly rose to the rank of lieutenant under the direct command of Captain Kael. He was trained to fly the N-1 starfighter, and escorted diplomatic missions from Naboo to as far away as Coruscant. During that trip to Coruscant, the Naboo delegation was attacked by an unidentified ship that Sykes drove off. While a later Senate investigation turned up nothing, the attacker had, in reality been Darth Maul. His master, Darth Sidious, had used the Naboo visit to have his apprentice test the N-1 starfighters and their pilots.

Droid Invasion

Soon after the attack on Coruscant, the planet of Naboo was blockaded and then invaded by the Trade

PROFILE

Gavyn Sykes

Homeworld

Naboo

Species

Human

Gender

Male

Weapon

Ascension gun

Vehicle

Flash speeder, Gian speeder, N-1 starfighter

Affiliation

RSF

Federation. Before the droid armies started their assault, Captain Panaka stationed Lieutenant Sykes along with the other Theed Palace RSF volunteers patrolling the streets to maintain order. Sykes was in an armed Flash speeder when the invasion reached Theed. Ordered by Panaka to leave the city, Sykes rescued Captain Kael from attacking droids. The two later stole Heavy STAPs to escape Theed. Sykes and the people of Naboo were on the run in their own world.

'Lieutenant Sykes? This is Captain Kael. Do you read me? We're pinned down at RSF headquarters. We need assistance now!'

Naboo Resistance

With Queen Amidala safely off-planet and on the way to Coruscant, Lieutenant Sykes and Captain Kael moved through the countryside around Theed, looking to help where they could. Kael knew the value of local knowledge of the terrain, particularly the forested swamps where it would be easier to hide from droid patrols. Rescuing locals travelling by houseboat and heading for the swamps, Kael and Sykes learned that a smuggler – Borvo the Hutt – was based in the nearby mountains.

Borvo the Hutt

Sykes, his N-X police cruiser damaged by STAP fire, used a Flash speeder to reach the mountains. There, he rescued Borvo's freighter, which was being attacked by AATs. The Hutt offered his assistance, though neither Sykes nor Kael fully trusted the smuggler. The fact that the Hutt admitted he had an N-1 starfighter assembly site in his mountain lair didn't help, but the RSF officers knew they needed the firepower. They used the N-1 fighters to cripple Trade Federation orbital communication satellites, and then launched a daring raid to rescue Naboo being used as slave labour in a mining camp. Some of the rescued civilians boarded transports provided by Borvo; others had to go by river and then land. Sykes protected those escapees, while Kael went with the transports. Lieutenant Sykes heard that

'Lieutenant Sykes! Glad you made it!'

Captain Panaka, on his return to Naboo, greets Gavyn Sykes

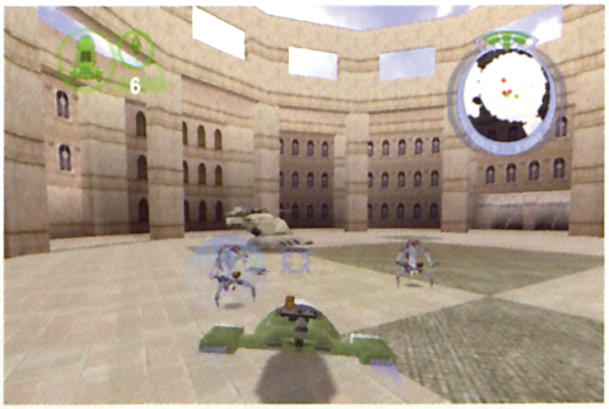
Return of the Hutt

Sykes stayed on with the RSF, becoming a captain during the Clone Wars. When Borvo the Hutt returned to Naboo and set up operations in the city of Moenia, Sykes made a point of monitoring the treacherous slug. Assigned to anti-smuggling operations and based at Kwilaan starport in Keren city, Sykes and his men often had to deal with Borvo's thugs. At one point, Sykes and some off-world adventurers prevented Borvo developing a bioweapon called the Berserker Virus.

Kael had been shot down while protecting Borvo's transports. Rushing to his captain's aid, Sykes discovered an illegal mining operation owned by the Hutt. Reaching the dying Kael, Sykes was told that Borvo had betrayed them, and planned to sell the rescued Naboo as slaves. With help from one of Borvo's former pilots, Sykes rescued the Naboo a second time, and drove the Hutt from the planet.

Hero of Naboo

Now in charge of the resistance cell, Sykes organised further raids, including one on Camp 4, where many Naboo leaders were being held. Later, when Queen Amidala returned, Sykes was instrumental in delaying and destroying a division of the droid army heading for the Grassy Plains, and in helping Amidala and Panaka infiltrate Theed Palace. Once inside the palace hangar, Sykes and his astromech R2-C4 reached their N-1 starfighter and joined in the battle to destroy the droid starship. Sykes destroyed tractor beam and shield emplacements, unwittingly allowing Anakin Skywalker entry to the ship, which he then destroyed from within. The Battle for Naboo was won, and Sykes was one of the heroes of the day. He stood near Amidala herself during the victory celebrations.



THE BATTLE FOR NABOO

THE NABOO RESISTANCE

When the Trade Federation landing craft disgorged their cargo of MTTs, AATs, troop transports and patrolling STAPs, the people of Naboo offered little resistance. They still hoped that diplomacy would somehow resolve the issue. Unfortunately, the Trade Federation were only interested in conquest.

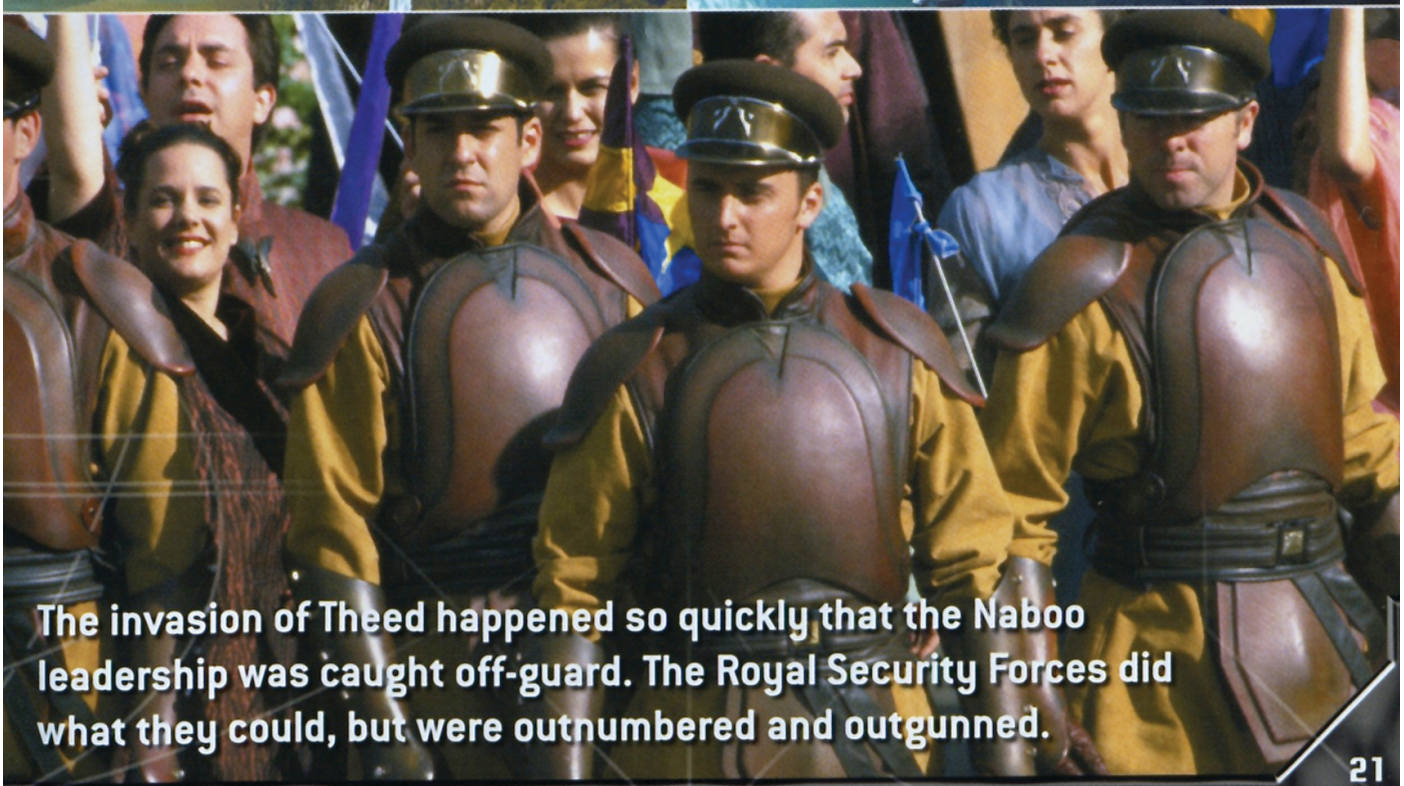
The droid armies rolled into Theed and other Naboo settlements. Due to glitches in programming, particularly in threat recognition, there were many instances where passive resistance, or the misreading of an item as a weapon, led to horrific assaults by the heavily armed droids on unarmed citizens. In the midst of all of that, the Naboo Royal Security volunteers found themselves being actively hunted as they tried to defend the people and themselves.

Flight to Freedom

Shortly before he and Queen Amidala escaped Theed in the Royal Starship, Captain Panaka issued the order for all remaining RSF personnel to escape the city, taking with them what they could and trying to avoid direct confrontation with the battle droids, droidekas and AATs that were already filling the streets of Theed. RSF officers Captain Kael and Lieutenant Sykes managed to use their Flash speeders at least to reach the edge of the city, before stealing some Heavy STAPs to head into the surrounding countryside. Others managed to get Flash and Gian speeders out, or to escape in N-X police cruisers. Others escaped in civilian transports or simply ran, heading for forests, swamps, caverns, tunnels – anywhere they could hide while they regrouped. Many died, or were captured and interred in labour camps.

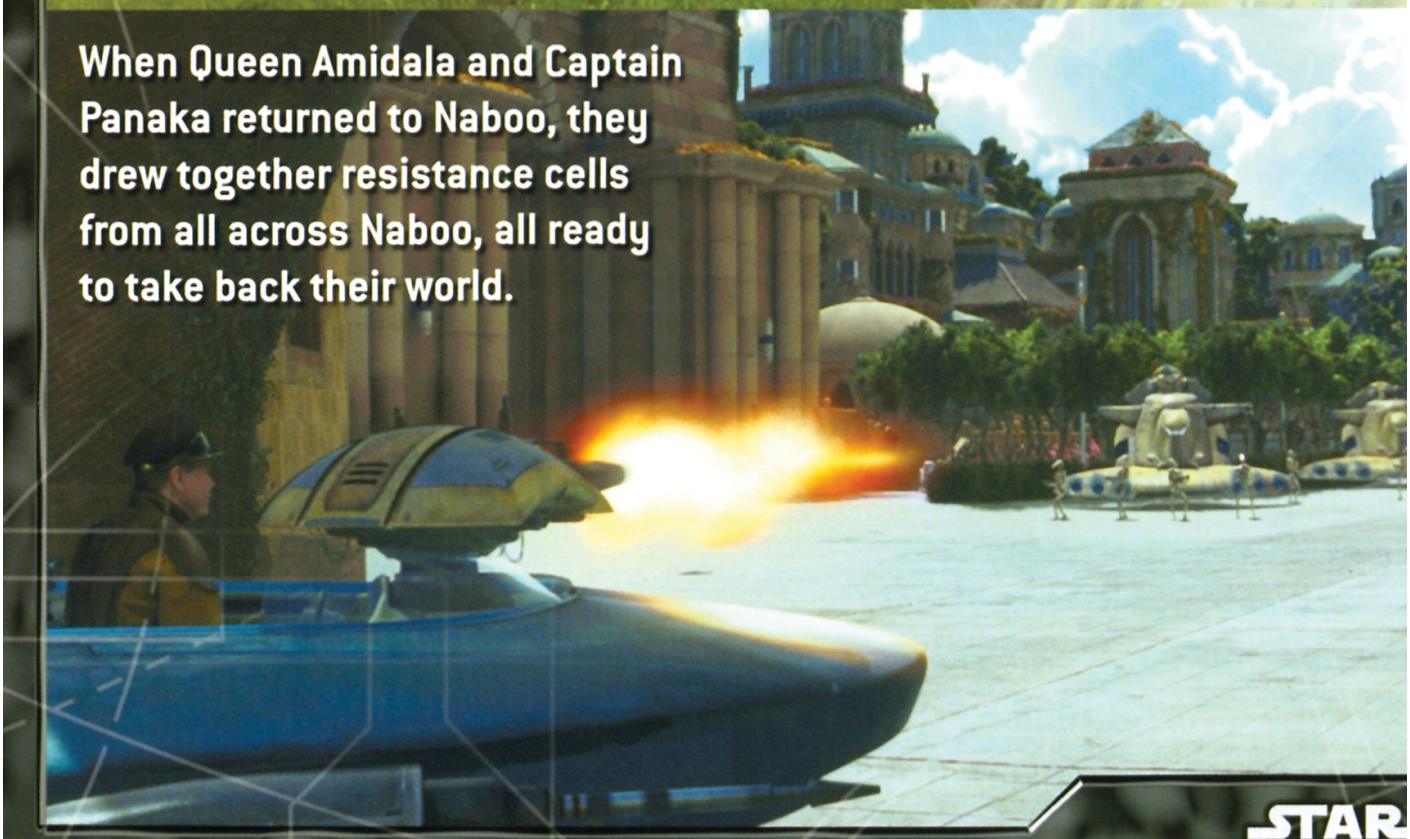
In Hiding

In the first hours and days after the droid invasion, the Trade Federation forces moved out across Naboo, taking over or destroying outlying settlements as they relentlessly tightened their grip on the planet. More and more civilians, RSF volunteers, government officials and even off-worlders found themselves huddled in the dark, vowing to find some way to fight back.



The invasion of Theed happened so quickly that the Naboo leadership was caught off-guard. The Royal Security Forces did what they could, but were outnumbered and outgunned.

When Queen Amidala and Captain Panaka returned to Naboo, they drew together resistance cells from all across Naboo, all ready to take back their world.

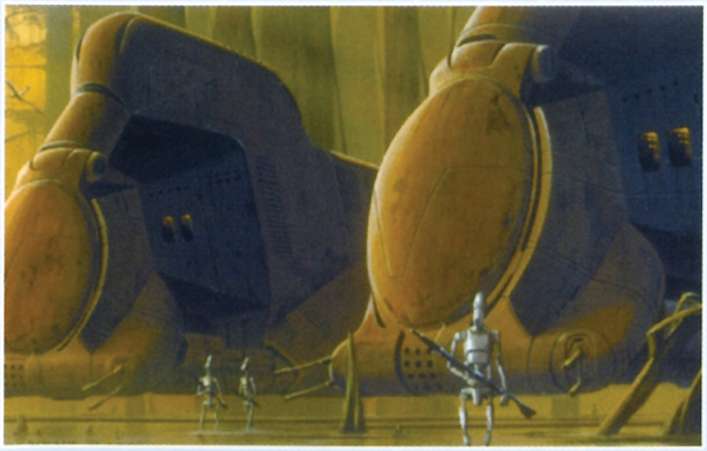


Trapping Takrab

When Rune Haako saw that the occupation forces in Theed were under attack, he sent fellow Neimoidian Gode Takrab out in a shuttle. Takrab carried a faked hologram that showed Queen Amidala apparently surrendering the planet Naboo to the Trade Federation and signing a treaty. The Neimoidian forger carried the fake treaty, complete with his precise copy of Amidala's signature. Fortunately, Takrab was intercepted and captured just in time by Naboo Resistance fighters.

Regrouping

The way the Naboo were spread out across the planet in small settlements, often with little or no technology, ultimately helped the fledgling Naboo Underground, as did their knowledge of the often challenging terrain. Lakeside settlements were emptied as their residents took cover on the innumerable small islands. The dense swamplands, teeming with life, kept the droids thoroughly confused. Isolated communities in hidden mountain valleys proved next-to-impossible to root out. As a result, the Naboo resistance had willing helpers and reasonable shelter, as well as a limited amount of supplies. Slowly, carefully, resistance cells sprang up all across Naboo. Some had to make do with mapping out pockets of survivors and ensuring they were supplied with enough food to hold out. Others were able to start planning to hit back at the invaders.



Resistance

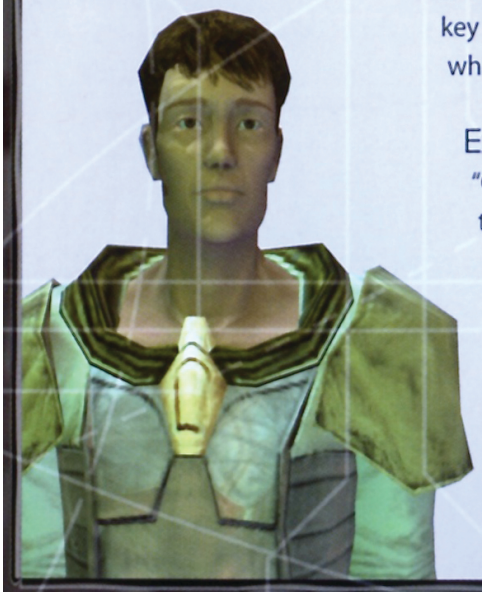
While Captain Kael and Gavyn Sykes were able to recruit the help of armed smugglers, and draw together resources that made them able to make larger raids against the Trade Federation forces, smaller groups were able to do their bit too. The organisers of these cells were a mixed bunch from some amazingly inappropriate backgrounds. One cell, for example, was organised by Lucos Dannt, the Headmaster of the Naboo Royal House of Learning. His manpower included RSF volunteers, a young Wookiee, and even a Jedi Padawan. This ragtag group was able to rescue Minister of Culture Kyu Tane and his wife, along with many other prisoners. They also liberated weapons and equipment. The Resistance's finest hour came during the raid on Theed that saw Queen Amidala infiltrate her own palace and capture the Neimoidian leaders of the invasion. The Resistance kept the droid forces distracted in the streets, drawing attention – and battle droids – away from the palace. Though the fight was hard, and not without tragic losses, the Naboo were victorious.

STAR WARS: EPISODE I BATTLE FOR NABOO

MAKING A COMBAT GAME

The N64 console game *Battle for Naboo* was developed in partnership between LucasArts and Factor 5 and was released in Europe in March 2001. Receiving a warm critical reception for its gameplay, it marked the last N64 exclusive title in the three-game deal that LucasArts had with Nintendo.

Developers Factor 5 first watched Episode I in May 1999, looking to develop a follow-up to the critically lauded *Rogue Squadron*. Initially, the team struggled to think of how to turn the events of the film into a combat game. However, Brett Tosti, who had been project leader on *Rogue Squadron*, asked himself a key question – what happened on Naboo when the Queen was away?



Expanding on the Film

"Queen Amidala receives a message telling her that her people are starving," Tosti said, when interviewed by *Star Wars Gamer* magazine. "In the back of my mind, I was visualising what might be happening on Naboo. I thought that this would be a great opportunity to show what the Trade Federation and the Royal Security Forces were doing during and after the invasion."

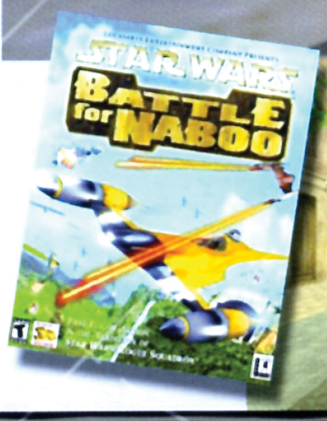
Creating the story for *Battle for Naboo* was a team effort. "We developed a character (Gavyn Sykes) who is dedicated to helping the people of Naboo. Gavyn is a Royal Security Force officer and, throughout the game, he makes life for the Trade Federation miserable," Tosti said. Factor 5 were keen to explore the planet Naboo far more than Episode I had time to do. "Players will feel that it is still Naboo, but it is also something new," Tosti promised before the release. "We've invented a lot of material in order to make Naboo exciting and detailed."

Sykes and Away!

Christian J. Simpson landed the role of Bravo Six, his first film role, when he saw an advert in a newspaper stating that actors were sought for the new *Star Wars* film. Unfortunately, his cockpit scenes during Bravo Flight's assault on the droid control ship were cut. However, Simpson can still be seen in the Theed hangar scene and the later celebration sequence.

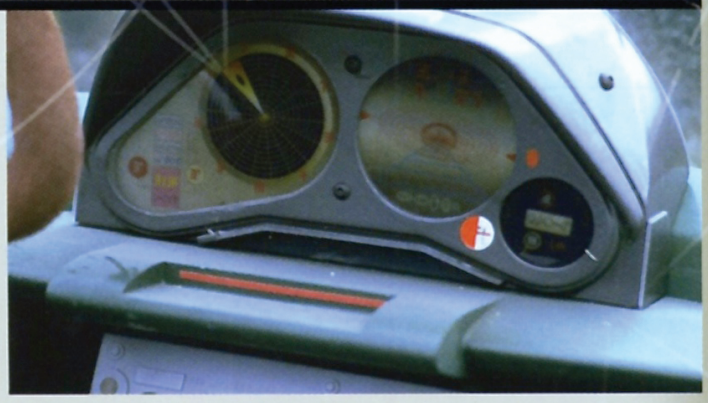
Sykes' Story

Star Wars: Episode 1 – Battle for Naboo was praised for its deep and involving story, charting Lieutenant Sykes' battles against the Trade Federation and against Borvo the Hutt. In the game, Sykes' voice was that of actor Matt Walters, but the character was based on the pilot Bravo Six. In the film, he was played by British actor Christian J. Simpson. The character of Sykes, now promoted to captain of the RSF, carried on to be used in the online role-playing game (RPG) *Star Wars Galaxies: An Empire Divided*. Simpson's likeness was used in creating the character for the RPG.



1 Actor Christian J. Simpson played Gavyn Sykes in Episode I. What role did he have in Episode III?

2 This is the dashboard display from which landspeeder?



3 Which Episode I astromech droid is this?

ANSWERS:

1. Simpson was the stand-in for Hayden Christensen during the filming of Episode III. During filming, Simpson kept an official VIP blog on starwars.com, keeping fans up to date with what was happening during filming.

2. It's the dashboard of the Naboo Flash speeder.

3. The droid is R2-C4, who was one of the astromech contingent aboard Queen Amidala's starship. He was tasked with repairing the starboard engine, while his less fortunate colleagues were picked off one at a time trying to repair the deflector shields. Later, R2-C4 partnered with Gavyn Sykes in an N-1 starfighter during the Battle of Naboo. Both survived.